(c) if so, the details of the plan and the amount likely to be spent on this; and

(d) by when, the bridges would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are already provisions to replace the busy level crossings with Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis if the traffic density at the level crossing reaches at 1 lakh TVUs (TVU-A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) otherwise, if felt necessary, on deposit terms. Proposal in both cases have to be sponsored by concerned State Govt. duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. Following this creiteria at present 428 works are sanctioned on cost sharing basis. These are at different stages of planning and execution. An amount of Rs. 411 crore has been earmarked for these works during 2005-06.

(d) Railways construct bridge proper (across the tracks) and approaches are executed by State Governments/Road Authorities concerned. All out efforts are made to complete Railway's portion of work simultaneously with the work of approaches. Completion of work depende upon completion of approaches by State Governments/Road Authorities also.

Fire in Toofanc Express

3991. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out in five coaches of Toofan Express going to Hawrah from New Delhi near Buxar in Bihar on the morning of 4th April, 2005;

(b) if so, whether an inquiry into the causes of fire, the loss to life and property caused thereby has been held; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. On 04.04.2005, there was a fire incident in 3008 Dn Udyan Abha Toofan Express between Darauli and Dildarnagar stations in Mughalsarai-Danapur Section of Danapur Division of East Central Railway.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Railway Safety/Eastern Circle is inquiring into this incident. In this incident there was no loss to human life. The damage to Railway property costing approximately Rs. 1 crore 40 lakh has been reported.

Bogibeel Project

3992. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exhaustion of allocated funds caused to sluggishness in the progress of work on the bogibeel project and allocated Rs. 60 crores by the Railway Ministry have been spent to pamper the whims of senior officials on wasteful expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether two more railway bridges at Nemati near Jorhat and Dholla in Tinsukia over river Brahmaputra have been sanctioned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Freight Corridors by Private Sectors

3993. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to open up three sections to private sectors for construction of freight corridors to cater to rising demand from transportation of goods by rail from hinter-land to ports; and